Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of chromID Strepto B as a screening media for Streptococcus agalactiae

Version: 2 Date: 31 October 2013

Reviewer: Donald Lyon

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Table 1. The calculation of sensitivity would require the evaluation of the method(s) under test against an independent gold standard method. In this case the gold standard is a composite of the two test methods, and is not independent, so we would be unable to calculate a true sensitivity. I suggest to revise or delete table 1. It is reasonable, however, to conclude that the STRB method is more sensitive than the BA method.
2. Page 6. 2nd para, line 15. The different methods were assessed in different institutions. How can we be sure that differences in the quality of processing did not explain the differences in yield between the two methods?

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Page 1, 3rd institution, spelling of “Obstetrics”
2. Page 3 1st para, last line. I think need to mention that the agar cultures followed a selective enrichment broth
3. Page 3 2nd para, line 15. Suggest to revise wording to clarify meaning. I think that the staff in the two institutions were blinded to the results in the other?
4. Page 9, 2nd para, 1st line. I suggest to explain waht is meant by a "conventional" agar. I assume this would mean non selective or non differential?

Discretionary Revisions
2. Page 3. 1st para. 4th line. The use of the word "critical" would suggest that there is no alternative strategy for prevention of GBS. But the debate of universal vs. risk-based screening continues. It could be said that the detection of colonization is "a major strategy" in the prevention of neonatal GBS, whilst leaving the possibility that there may be other strategies.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests